

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this title”, meaning title VI (§§1461–1470) of div. F of Pub. L. 115–254, Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3510, which is classified principally to this subchapter and which repealed title IV of chapter 2 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2191 et seq.), other than subsections (g), (l), (m), and (n) of section 237 thereof (22 U.S.C. 2197(g), (l), (m), (n)), among other amendments. For complete classification of title VI to the Code, see Tables.

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this division”, meaning division F of Pub. L. 115–254, Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3485, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of division F to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 9601 of this title and Tables.

§ 9689. Reference

With respect to any function transferred under this subchapter (including under a reorganization plan under section 9682 of this title) and exercised on or after October 5, 2018, reference in any other Federal law to any department, commission, or agency or any officer or office the functions of which are so transferred shall be deemed to refer to the Corporation or official or component of the Corporation to which that function is so transferred.

(Pub. L. 115–254, div. F, title VI, §1469, Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3515.)

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CHAPTER 104—VENEZUELA ASSISTANCE**SUBCHAPTER I—SUPPORT FOR THE INTERIM PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA AND RECOGNITION OF THE VENEZUELAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

- Sec.
9701. Findings; sense of Congress in support of the Interim President of Venezuela.
9702. Recognition of Venezuela’s democratically elected National Assembly.
9703. Advancing a negotiated solution to Venezuela’s crisis.

SUBCHAPTER II—HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR VENEZUELA

9711. Humanitarian relief for the Venezuelan people.
9712. Support for efforts at the United Nations on the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.

SUBCHAPTER III—ADDRESSING REGIME COHESION

9721. Additional restrictions on visas.
- 9722.

Sec.

Waiver for sanctioned officials that recognize the Interim President of Venezuela.

SUBCHAPTER IV—RESTORING DEMOCRACY AND ADDRESSING THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

9731. Support for international election observation and democratic civil society.
- SUBCHAPTER V—SUPPORTING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VENEZUELA**

9741. Recovering assets stolen from the Venezuelan people.

SUBCHAPTER VI—RESTORING THE RULE OF LAW IN VENEZUELA

9751. Developing and implementing a coordinated sanctions strategy with partners in the Western Hemisphere and the European Union.
9752. Concerns over PDVSA transactions with Rosneft.
9753. Countering Russian influence in Venezuela.
9754. Restriction on export of covered articles and services to certain security forces of Venezuela.

SUBCHAPTER VII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

9761. Congressional briefings.
9762. Prohibition on construction of provisions of this chapter as an authorization for the use of military force.
9763. Termination.

SUBCHAPTER I—SUPPORT FOR THE INTERIM PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA AND RECOGNITION OF THE VENEZUELAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**§ 9701. Findings; sense of Congress in support of the Interim President of Venezuela****(a) Findings**

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Venezuela’s electoral event on May 20, 2018 was characterized by widespread fraud and did not comply with international standards for a free, fair, and transparent electoral process.

(2) Given the fraudulent nature of Venezuela’s May 20, 2018 electoral event, Nicolás Maduro’s tenure as President of Venezuela ended on January 10, 2019.

(3) The National Assembly of Venezuela approved a resolution on January 15, 2019 that terminated Nicolás Maduro’s authority as the President of Venezuela.

(4) On January 23, 2019, the President of the National Assembly of Venezuela was sworn in as the Interim President of Venezuela.

(b) Sense of Congress

It is the sense of Congress—

(1) to support the decisions by the United States Government, more than 50 governments around the world, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the European Parliament to recognize National Assembly President Juan Guaidó as the Interim President of Venezuela;

(2) to encourage the Interim President of Venezuela to advance efforts to hold democratic presidential elections in the shortest possible period; and

(3) that the Organization of American States, with support from the United States

Government and partner governments, should provide diplomatic, technical, and financial support for a new presidential election in Venezuela that complies with international standards for a free, fair, and transparent electoral process.

(Pub. L. 116–94, div. J, title I, § 111, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 3030.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 116–94, div. J, title I, § 101, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 3030, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter and amending provisions set out as a note under section 1701 of Title 50, War and National Defense] may be cited as the ‘Venezuela Emergency Relief, Democracy Assistance, and Development Act of 2019’ or the ‘VERDAD Act of 2019.’”

§ 9702. Recognition of Venezuela’s democratically elected National Assembly

(a) Findings

Congress finds that Venezuela’s unicameral National Assembly convened on January 6, 2016, following democratic elections that were held on December 6, 2015.

(b) Sense of Congress

It is the sense of Congress that Venezuela’s democratically elected National Assembly is the only national level democratic institution remaining in the country.

(c) Policy

It is the policy of the United States to recognize the democratically elected National Assembly of Venezuela as the only legitimate national legislative body in Venezuela.

(d) Assistance to Venezuela’s National Assembly

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall prioritize efforts to provide technical assistance to support the democratically elected National Assembly of Venezuela in accordance with section 9731 of this title.

(Pub. L. 116–94, div. J, title I, § 112, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 3031.)

§ 9703. Advancing a negotiated solution to Venezuela’s crisis

(a) Sense of Congress

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) direct, credible negotiations led by the Interim President of Venezuela and members of Venezuela’s democratically elected National Assembly—

(A) are supported by stakeholders in the international community that have recognized the Interim President of Venezuela;

(B) include the input and interests of Venezuelan civil society; and

(C) represent the best opportunity to reach a solution to the Venezuelan crisis that includes—

(i) holding a new presidential election that complies with international standards for a free, fair, and transparent electoral process;

(ii) ending Nicolás Maduro’s usurpation of presidential authorities;

(iii) restoring democracy and the rule of law;

(iv) freeing political prisoners; and

(v) facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid;

(2) dialogue between the Maduro regime and representatives of the political opposition that commenced in October 2017, and were supported by the Governments of Mexico, of Chile, of Bolivia, and of Nicaragua, did not result in an agreement because the Maduro regime failed to credibly participate in the process; and

(3) negotiations between the Maduro regime and representatives of the political opposition that commenced in October 2016, and were supported by the Vatican, did not result in an agreement because the Maduro regime failed to credibly participate in the process.

(b) Policy

It is the policy of the United States to support diplomatic engagement in order to advance a negotiated and peaceful solution to Venezuela’s political, economic, and humanitarian crisis that is described in subsection (a)(1).

(Pub. L. 116–94, div. J, title I, § 113, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 3031.)

SUBCHAPTER II—HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR VENEZUELA

§ 9711. Humanitarian relief for the Venezuelan people

(a) Sense of Congress

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States Government should expand efforts to peacefully address Venezuela’s humanitarian crisis; and

(2) humanitarian assistance—

(A) should be targeted toward those most in need and delivered through partners that uphold internationally recognized humanitarian principles; and

(B) should not be passed through the control or distribution mechanisms of the Maduro regime.

(b) Humanitarian relief

(1) In general

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall provide—

(A) humanitarian assistance to individuals and communities in Venezuela, including—

(i) public health commodities and services, including medicines and basic medical supplies and equipment;

(ii) basic food commodities and nutritional supplements needed to address growing malnutrition and improve food security for the people of Venezuela, with a specific emphasis on the most vulnerable populations; and

(iii) technical assistance to ensure that health and food commodities are appropriately selected, procured, targeted, and distributed; and